



THE NIGHT  
Santa  
CAME TO  
Greenville



“So THAT’S where Greenville is,” Santa said as he picked up a map. “I’ve gotten so many letters from the good boys and girls who live there that I’ve made my decision. I’m visiting Greenville first for Christmas this year.”



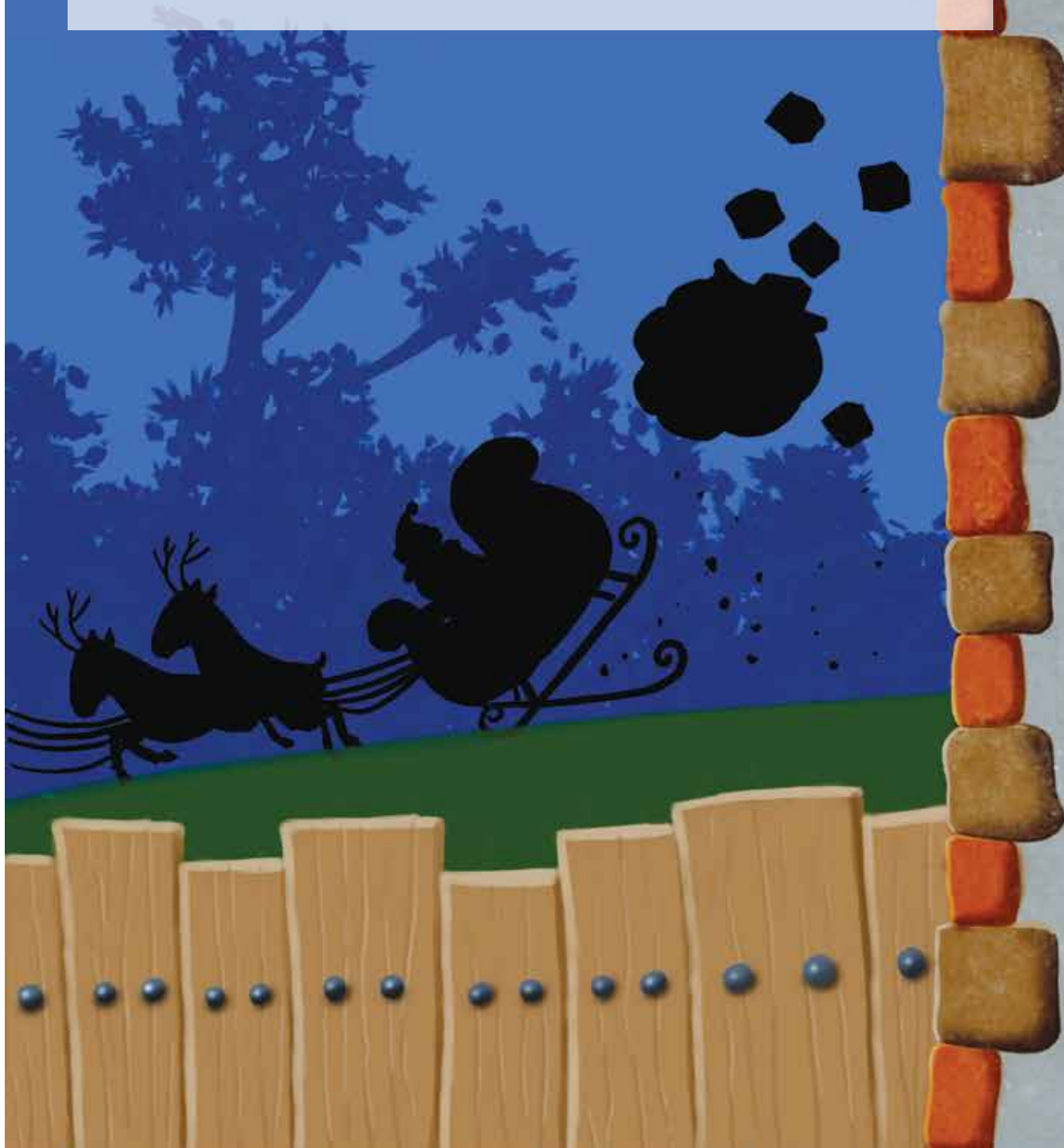
The elves erupted in applause, anxious to get this year's Christmas trip started. They watched Santa pack his bags with toys, then helped Santa load them on his sleigh and leave the North Pole. Amid all the excitement, the elves didn't see that one lonely bolt had fallen off Santa's sleigh.



Santa flew as fast as his reindeer could take him. Soon he was close to Greenville — he could even see the Audie Murphy Museum — but something felt wrong on the sleigh when he started to land. “Noooooo!” Santa shouted as he held tight to the reins. His sleigh started to shake like a freight train, then veered to the side and ... WHAM! ... crashed just outside town.



Greenville residents were climbing into bed when they heard an awful noise. They thought a factory might have exploded, or maybe a plane crashed in town — definitely something BIG. They rushed to their windows to see what had happened.



Mayor David Dreiling quickly called the police to check it out, and they couldn't believe what they discovered. There was a mangled sleigh, several bruised reindeer, and toys scattered all around. And there, in the middle of it all, slumped over beside the sleigh, was Santa himself with a big bump on his forehead.



The police officers rushed to help Santa. “Oh, what have I done?” Santa said. “I crashed on my very first stop! If I don’t get help soon, children all over the world are going to wake up disappointed.” He looked around at the wreckage — the scattered toys, the limping reindeer — and lowered his head.



Soon more people from Greenville were showing up at the scene, determined to do something about it. “Santa, I can help you with your sleigh,” said a car mechanic. He pulled tools out of his truck and got to work hammering out the dents, fixing the broken parts, and replacing that missing bolt that the elves didn’t notice.





Other people from Greenville were helping, too. “I can heal the reindeer,” said a veterinarian. “I can fix the bump on Santa’s head,” said a doctor. “I’ll repackage all the toys,” said a shopkeeper. They worked and worked until Santa was ready to fly again!



“I knew Greenville was a great town,” Santa said, “but I had no idea you could be so helpful and kind. You’re showing what the spirit of Christmas really means — caring for others.” He looked at his watch. “Good heavens! I’ve got a lot of stops to make tonight, but I think I can finish on time. Thank you, Greenville!”



The local people watched as Santa loaded the last package on his sleigh, then took off into the night sky. A hearty “ho, ho, ho” echoed through the streets as he flew over the the SportsPark, then stopped quickly at every house in town to deliver his toys. From then on, Santa would make Greenville his first visit every Christmas Eve ...



... Because Santa will never forget how  
Greenville saved Christmas!

